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Operations

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY
HELICOPTER SUPPORT**

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The purpose of this instruction is to provide basic guidance to 20th Air Force planners and supporting Air Force Space Command (AFSPC) helicopter flights concerning flying support of Basic Cadet Training (BCT) and the Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) Program. This annual support consists of one aircraft and crew supporting three separate one-week SERE periods and two aircraft and crews supporting one 10-day BCT period. The United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) support affords AFSPC helicopter crews realistic training and allows crews to experience high altitude flying in a controlled environment.

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS

This revision incorporates guidance on logistics requirements, use of mission commanders, and post-mission reporting and is substantially revised and must be completely reviewed.

1. Pre-Support Requirements. The key to the success of the helicopter support is prior coordination for helicopter requirements while deployed to the USAFA.

1.1. All support taskings must be approved by AFSPC/DOSH prior to committing resources. Once approved, 20 AF/DOH will solicit volunteer units to support the specific taskings. This deployment must not adversely affect unit mission accomplishment. All BCT deployments will include a mission commander who will be appointed by 20 AF/DOH. The aircraft commander will generally serve as mission commander on SERE deployments.

1.1.1. 20 AF/DOH will provide supporting units a USAFA point of contact for a fund cite and logistics requirements. Mission commanders must coordinate with the USAFA POC to ensure billeting and transportation requirements are adequate for the crew and maintenance personnel. Mission commanders must also ensure the availability of a tug, tow bar, and hangar space for deployed aircraft. The coordinating office for SERE is 34 TRS/CST (DSN 333-4460) and for BCT is 34 TRS/BCT (DSN333-3581).

- 1.1.2. The deployment package for BCT will include two aircraft and an additional pilot who will be designated mission commander. Crews for each aircraft will consist of two pilots, one flight engineer (if assigned), and one crew chief.
- 1.1.3. The deployment package for SERE will include two pilots (one of which will be designated mission commander), one flight engineer (if assigned), and one crew chief.
- 1.2. All participating crews will flight-follow with their home unit while enroute to/from the academy.
 - 1.2.1. A blanket flight authorization will be published for the entire deployment period by the owning unit and include AFSPC attached flyers if expected to fly. The unit will republish a flight authorization to cover any encountered changes.
 - 1.2.2. Off-station reporting will be accomplished through normal channels.
- 1.3. Prior to departing home station, each crew participating in USAFA support will review the effects of high altitude operations on aircraft handling, aircraft and engine performance, remote area operations, and auto-rotational characteristics. In addition, crews will review this instruction to determine what support they are authorized to provide. Support requests that go beyond those listed in paragraphs 2.2. and 2.3. must be coordinated through 20 AF/DOH prior to providing that support.
- 1.4. Aircraft deploying for BCT will be configured for cross-country flights to include as a minimum the five-person bench seat and two jump seats. Each aircraft should have operable headsets for each passenger position.
- 1.5. Personnel selected to participate in orientation and vector-training flights must be highly motivated officers and contract personnel who are able to project a positive image and communicate effectively.

2. USAFA Support Requirements.

- 2.1. For all support deployments, crews will receive an airfield briefing and area familiarization flight prior to mission flying.
 - 2.1.1. The airfield briefing will include hangaring arrangements, fuel options, airfield operating procedures, communication requirements, location of helicopter operations, and a local area flight/ground safety brief.
 - 2.1.2. The familiarization flight will highlight the operating area, landing zones, and local hazards/no fly areas. In addition, for SERE training, maps of the operating area will be maintained by the CST office. Each crew will survey the proposed low-level operating area prior to commencing low level operations and training flights. The maps will be CHUMed accordingly.
- 2.2. Basic Cadet Training. This training involves providing orientation flights to all basic cadets. This motivational program provides visibility of the Air Force helicopter mission.
- 2.3. SERE Training. This support provides vector training to cadets. Cadets will learn to vector a search helicopter to their position. In addition, when hoist-configured aircraft are deployed, hoist operations may be performed for demonstration purposes. Live hoist will only be performed with certified survival instructors on aeronautical orders. Mission commanders must ensure the safety of these operations.

2.4. The mission commander will be responsible for all crew/maintenance scheduling, and mission taskings. The mission commander will ensure that all passengers on the orientation flights are properly briefed and manifested prior to the flight. He or she will ensure that all flights are conducted in accordance with flight instructions and will ensure that flight safety is emphasized during all missions. Any waiver requirements will be coordinated through 20 AF/DOH to AFSPC/DOSH. The mission commander is responsible for monitoring/approving any overtime performed by the civilian contractor. He must pre-approve all overtime and coordinate with the unit commander responsible for payment and tracking of these funds.

3. Post Support Requirements. The mission commander is responsible for submitting an after action report within 2 weeks of the USAFA support. This report will include recommendations for improving the AFSPC support of this important mission.

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